A

COMPENDIUM

OF THE

CORN TRADE.

The PRACTICE of

INGROSSING, JOBBING, &c.

The CAUSE of

PLENTY and SCARCITY;

Conſtitutional Errors in our LAWS and CUSTOMS;

A

SUMMARY of the LAWS;

ASSISE TABLE, &c. &c.

Compoſed for the

Conſideration of the Members of Parliament, Magiſtrates, Landlords, Tenants, &c.

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CORN TRADE.

AS this Piece has been wrote ſome Time, and very dexterouſly traverſed in the Publiſhing, the Reader muſt not be ſurprized, that he finds ſome Things happen now, as were pre-ſuppoſed would happen when the Proſpect before us ſeemed to make it highly improbable; he will find, that the whole Reaſoning is founded on a Suppoſition, that the Scarcity was merely factitious; that there was always Corn ſufficient, and that the Markets were purely held up by Art, and now have only to add, that I hope ſome Hints given in the ſubſequent Work, will furniſh the Legiſlature with the true Means of preventing the like for the future.

It may not ſeem a little aſtoniſhing, to ingenious Men, that a Set of People, the mere

Rabble of the Community, ſhould be able, in the tendereſt Points imaginable, to give, as it were, Law to the Nation, by Means ſudden, and almoſt imperceptible, to ſtrike a Sort of Famine out of Opulence, and by a Kind of Hocus-Pocus ſpirit up Scarcity, like *Pharoah*'s lean Kine in Viſion, to devour Plenty. But when the Nature and Reaſon of Things is a little more attended to; when it is conſidered, that Opportunity and a golden Proſpect elevate ordinary Underſtandings above the common Courſe of Operation. That the War, which gives a Damp to Commerce, naturally produces Land Pirates, it will eaſily be conceived, from what Motives that fatal Ardour ſprung, ſo productive of Evil, and that has with ſo much Reaſon irritated the Minds of the common People, and not without Cauſe made their Betters appear highly blameable.

In a rich Nation, an Ambition to participate of the real or imaginary Benefits reſulting from Wealth or Power; to be as gay, as ſplendid, as luxurious, or as vain, as ſome we ſee about us, inſpires Mankind with a Mode of Thinking and Acting, not ſo unnatural as it is miſchievous, and is the ſame Spirit reverſely operating, as gives Dignity and Honour to the moſt virtuous Purſuits, and Splendor to the moſt happy Attainments.

Active Imaginations when thus turned, and either wanting Foundation, or Skill to enter into Meaſures or Modes of Life, conſonant with

with the common Good, deviate into that which ſeems more immediately to anſwer their private Purpoſes, and hence ſprings that Syſtem, now ſo fatally purſued, which, while it preſents great Proſpects of Advantage to the Actors, has the Appearance only of a ſingle Chance againſt them, which is a Glut of the Commodity, as that riſing in Quantity, above the Reach of their Purſes, or Convenience of Storing, of a ſudden falls the Market, and turns all their venal Views into a Viſion. In their moſt intereſted Purſuits they muſt have the Opulence of the Farmer, the Concurrence of the Factor, and Patience of the Landlord to depend on; they muſt all be confeſſedly Dupes to the Ruin of a Branch of Trade that has hitherto brought in great Sums annually, and has been at leaſt half the Support of the Nation; and on the contrary, by creating an imaginary Scarcity of Corn, are founding a real one of Money, in as much as the Importation and Defect of Exportation amounts to.

By this the Bounty is ſav'd to the Revenue, but the annual Income, which ſhould ſupport that Bounty, and make it eligible, is utterly loſt to the Community; the Landlords for a Time get their Rents better paid, but attended with at leaſt a fair Chance of a common Bankruptcy amongſt the Farmers, as upon Importation, and a Glut, muſt neceſſarily happen. Thus Cunning, and a too ardent Deſire of

Wealth, operates for a Time with no unfavourable Aſpect, and where Men ſee no farther than the preſent, carries with it ſome Reſemblance of Wiſdom; but where it ſhould ſeem, as if the preſent Proſpect ſo much engroſſes their Attention, as to blind all the Powers of Reflection or Forecaſt, as it is hardly practicable, while the Corn Ground is ſo much increaſed, the Crops ſo generally good, and the Imports ſo large to keep up the Markets long, and the Moment they drop, the Fatality premiſed enſues, and they will find themſelves only happy who come to Market early. I think I may ſay, without the Spirit of Divination, that this not only muſt happen, but in a Manner too ſhocking to repreſent. For it muſt be obſerved, that tho' it may, and I am afraid muſt happen, that the Dearneſs of Corn will raiſe the Price of Labour, yet I don't think, that Corn becoming very cheap muſt neceſſarily fall the Price of Labour again, and if that ſhould not happen, who but the landed Men muſt pay for all; ſo that thoſe who have ſo long trifled with the Remedy, will probably at laſt bring the whole Burthen on themſelves, attended with the leſſening of our current Caſh, and the Ruin of our Trade, by the raiſing of our Manufactures above the Rate of marketable Commodity, or what amounts to the ſame Thing, the obliging of the Undertakers entirely to drop them, when only this ſorrowful Reflection will remain,

main, that by being the Dupes of bad Men for one Year, their very Poſterity may feel the Conſequences.

The Scarcity of Corn now, whether real or factitious, is of a very different Nature from the ſame happening half a Century paſt, as the Increaſe of Corn Ground has ſhortened the Quantity of Paſture, ſo that when heretofore Bread was dear, Fleſh was cheap; now one drags the other after it, and both fall dear together, by which Means Labour is doubly loaded, and by a plain Conſequence, the Price of Labour muſt proportionably riſe, and this too at a Time when our Manufactures are not in the moſt happy Courſe, when every Nation is trying to underſell us, and our own Plantations more our Support than Foreign Trade, when our Alliances are ſo fram'd, however wiſely in other Reſpects, yet quite oppoſite to the Benefit of our Manufactures, as *Pruſſia* in that particular, is not ſo much in our Intereſt as the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and what we ſave in Money, we loſe in Trade, and this, when Induſtry is rather upon the Decline, than pregnant of Improvement; conſequently engroſſing, amaſſing, or retaining from Market, the moſt unhappy Occurrences that could at this critical Conjuncture happen to a Nation.

It ſhould be ſeriouſly conſidered by ſuch as make a Point of ſupporting Property, that there is an eſſential Difference between *Luxuries*, *Conveniencies*, and *Neceſſaries*. The firſt concerns

cerns the State only to ſuppreſs, the Second is properly, that Kind of Property wherewith the State rarely intermeddles; but as to the laſt, it has been in all Ages and Times, and in all Nations, under the more immediate Eye or regard of the Government, and muſt at all Times be regulated by Plenty or Scarcity; it is in this Light, that a Bounty has been obtain'd on Exportation in Favour of the Huſbandman, that Plenty, which gave Pleaſure to others, might not be his Ruin; but no ſooner engroſſing, regrating, amaſſing and retaining takes Place, but the Reaſon for a Bounty ceaſes, as it would be unreaſonable for any Man to expect Favour in the Future from that Government, which they endeavour by male Practice to deſtroy, to receive their Bounty, but to deſpiſe their Ordinances; nor will the Partiality of Landlords, or their Intereſt in the Legiſlature, in the leaſt diminiſh the Infamy of this Kind of Conduct.

That every Man has a Right to make the moſt of his Property, is generally but not particularly true; and why it is not ſo in this Caſe, is, not only as it is ballanc'd by the Bounty, but in the Nature and Reaſon of Things can't be permitted, as it would put it in the Power of Opulence and Cunning to inſlave the People, in like Manner as is recorded of the Prime Miniſter of *Egypt*; whoſe Cunning rais'd him above Reflections on Juſtice, and I think has never been imitated by the worſt Governmen

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we read of in Hiſtory; therefore what Power eſteem too infamous, cannot be reaſonably permitted to private Men, to make a Prey of their Fellow Subjects.

When Men enter into a Buſineſs, ſubject to Rules and Regulations, they cannot complain when only Neceſſity cauſes thoſe Rules and Regulations to take Place, but ſtill leſs, when they themſelves create that Neceſſity; in this double Light, there is not the leaſt Pretence to reaſon about Property, and ſtill leſs, when the Notion of Property is abus'd to the Protection of Infamy, ſuch abandon'd Wretches ſhould have no Property, but in the Pillory or the Gallows; and who theſe People are, and how they act, is now to be the Subject of our farther Enquiry.

In order to make this more clear to the Reader, I ſhall firſt enter into a compendious Diſquiſition, into the primary Cauſe of the preſent State of our Corn Trade.

It may be remembred here, that, previous to the Declaration of War, a great Number of Priſoners were brought in, and thoſe increaſing afterwards, added very conſiderably to the Number of Conſumers; when the War took Place, the Fear or Apprehenſion of an Invaſion from *France*, occaſioned a Contract for Foreign Troops, and conſequently a Neceſſity of providing for them before their Arrival, which added to the Number of Priſoners, made the calculated Account of the Conſumption riſe

to about 30,000 Men a Day, or in the Computation of the whole Year, to nearly eleven Millions of additional Conſumers, which, with a middling Harveſt, might very naturally give an uncommon Turn to the current Markets; but even this, ſimply conſidered, would not have produced any Thing like the Conſequences that have ſince enſued, had common Diſcretion directed our future Meaſures; when inſtead of conſidering Events, Contracts were unguardedly made, and large Sums iſſued to purchaſe Stores for the Military Magazines, which on a ſudden attracted the Attention of ſuch as were poſſeſs'd of any great Quantities. The Contractors foreſeeing what Turn ſuch extraordinary Purchaſes would create, added to the Government Caſh what they could raiſe of their own, or borrow from others, or that would unite with them in engroſſing under the Sanction of Power, and as under the Contracts the Sale was at their own Diſpoſition, they adventur'd to the utmoſt Extent of their Caſh or Credit, while others, unengag'd in the Contracts, and are conſtantly attentive to the Markets, the *Corn Jobbers*, their Agents or Factors, who can always in *London* command Caſh, perceiving the Drift of the Contractors, readily ſtruck into a Road that equally ſuited their Views.

The Farmers, who are not the moſt defective in Sagacity, ſoon felt the Effects of a briſk Market, and when they had diſpoſed of what

what ſuited their Convenience, reſerv'd the Reſt, to ſhare with the Engroſſers in the Benefit of a riſing Market, ſuch who were not under any Neceſſity to ſell, reſerv'd their whole Store, and then it reſted between the Contractors, Engroſſers, and Retainers, to make what Market they pleaſed.

Hence we perceive, the plain Reaſon of a high Market in the Midſt of Plenty, and ſo long as the Farmers and Engroſſers can hold out, the Price will rather riſe than fall, unleſs either the future Crops prove too large for their Purſes, or the Legiſlature ſhall find it abſolutely Neceſſary to interfere with more Spirit than has been of late apparent.

But here it may be obſerv'd, that Landlords, and Men in Power are often the ſame People, and the having of their Rents well paid, of more immediate Conſequence to them, than a due Regard to the common Intereſt, or their own future Benefits, as they are generally more neceſſitous than their Tenants, and by ſuch Neceſſity, their Minds too much narrowed to reſpect future Proſpects.

As the Farmers rely on theſe, the Engroſſers form a ſecondary Dependance on the ſame Intereſt, and the latter cannot be treated with Severity, but the former muſt conſequentially ſuffer, ſo that the whole Fate of the Nation, its Trade and Manufactures, is entirely in the Power of an infamous Combination, and the Remedy, ſo far as we have treated the Subject,

only in real Patriots, who have Wealth, or in neceſſitous Landlords returning to their Senſes; that as the high Price of Grain is, and may be ſtill a fatal Loſs to the State, ſo ought the State to bear ſuch a Part of the Loſs as may reduce the Price of Grain to that Equilibrium, which the real Condition of Plenty or Scarcity naturally conſtitutes; otherwiſe, like the *French*, they may turn Manufacturers into Soldiers, but will find it difficult to return Soldiers into Manufacturers; and this leads me into another Enquiry, equally reſpecting the preſent Subject, this is the Nature and State of our Markets.

By the ſtrict Rules of Law, all Grain ſhould be brought to, and once only ſold in open Market; but Time, the Increaſe of Cultivation, the Situation of ſome Places, and the great Demand for our Grain Abroad, has made Sample Markets in ſome Meaſure, and in ſome Places, at leaſt ſeemingly neceſſary, and ſo far as that appears to be really the Caſe, may be reaſonably admitted; but if from this Neceſſity or Uſe ſprings a ſcandalous Abuſe, it is certainly right, that either ſuch Practice be totally annulled, or ſo rectify'd by particular Aſcertainment, as that no Abuſe may ſpring in one Place, from the Uſe or Neceſſity of Sample Markets in another.

This premis'd, I ſhall conſider the State and Nature of our Corn Markets, or what are uſually ſo deemed within the Verge of this Metropolis,

tropolis, with their Operation and Effect on the Public.

The principal and only Grain Market heretofore in Uſe was at *Bear Key*, wiſely calculated to anſwer the like End of an open full Market on the Water, as is cuſtomary in other Places on the Land, as here or near this Place lay the Veſſels laded for the Market, Samples whereof were for more Convenience brought Aſhore, and the Purchaſer at firſt Hand choſe his Sample, view'd the Cargo, and agreed for the Price. This could not be properly deemed a Sample Market, any more than if I ſet up my Load at an Inn, and brought a Sack into the publick Market of the ſame Town. By Degrees, and by the Management of Jobbers, this fair and legal Method degenerated into Sample Jobbing, and inſtead of one Purchaſe of a Cargo, or neceſſary Quantity for the Uſe of the immediate Conſumer, as Baker, Stabler, or ſuch like, the Samples were play'd with from Hand to Hand by the Jobbers, and fell at laſt into the Power of the Engroſſer.

On the Credit of this Degeneracy, tho' not total, the Jobbers took the Hint of conſtituting a *New Market* in MARK LANE, and without Patent, without legal Rules, without publick Liberty to buy and ſell, and that Cuſtomers might be drawn farther from the Cargoes, eſtabliſhed that Practice of Jobbing they had learnt at *Bear Key*, but with more Impunity, and freer from Reſtraint or Hazard, as they

at firſt Sight conceiv'd. And which has ſuch a remarkable Influence on all the Markets in *Great Britain*, as requires a very ſingular and ſerious Notice.

Sample Jobbing in *London* has given the Hint to the like kind of Practice all over the Kingdom, but more eſpecially within fifty Miles of the Metropolis, where the Infection being ſooner caught, is more perniciouſly purſued, and the Farmer and the Mealman united in the ſame Scheme: By this Means the Markets are univerſally foreſtalled, and the Mealman makes what Price he pleaſes to the Baker, and to thoſe who make their own Bread. When a Miller is rich enough to turn Mealman, he refuſes the Uſe of his Mill to both, and in either Caſe the Conſumer muſt pay his Price. This is the ſecond Courſe of Combination, and follows cloſe at the Heels of the Engroſſers and Jobbers, and adds to the general Combination, which dictates to the whole Body of the People, and is ſo far incapable of Redreſs, as the bad Hearts of thoſe who ſhare in Power, in Intereſt, and in Diſregard to the Complaints of the People, can contrive to make it.

The *London* Market, its malignant Influence, and illegal Procedure therein, is the real Source, the true Fountain, from whence this Stream of infamous Practice flows, the Wealth being center'd here, the Employment for it in fair Trade, neither abundant nor lucrative,

iſſues very freely, when any Thing preſents that promiſes a gainful Event, and the Cunning, the Buſy, and Neceſſitous, are ever at work to circulate the idle Caſh. Thus is that Wealth we are ſo proud of turn'd upon ourſelves, and inſtead of profiting by Foreign Trade, is become the Bane of the Nation, and ſaps the very Baſis of future Acquiſition.

In *London*, and its Verge or Adjacency, or what is uſually called the Bills of Mortality, inhabits at the loweſt Computation eight hundred thouſand Souls, a Number ſuperior to what any of our largeſt Counties contain, the greater Part of whom depend on daily Labour, and conſequently have an eſſential Dependance on the moderate Price of Neceſſaries; and as the Exportation of Grain hence is greater than from all the other Ports together, that is not from thence by Order exported from other Places, the *London* Markets muſt either immediately or eventually direct all the other Markets.

As *London* then is the common Medium by which all other Markets are directed, it ſhould ſeem right to turn our firſt Attention, either on regulating and opening a free Trade in ſuch as are, however improperly, called Markets, or in eſtabliſhing, under proper Rules and Regulations, other Markets, becauſe as here lies the Source of the Evil, here the Regulation ſhould commence, as in all human Appearance every other Attempt will prove abortive,

abortive, while this is the Principal, and totally in the Power of Factors, Jobbers, Sharpers and Thieves, diſperſed over the Kingdom, to center all the Corn Trade in one common Bubble; ſuch Markets therefore ſeem requiſite to be conſtituted here, where the Laws can be duly put in Execution, againſt engroſſing, foreſtalling, and regrating; and thoſe who have tranſported themſelves from *Bear Key* to the *Corn Exchange*, be, if permitted at all, under different Regulations than ſuch as they have made for themſelves.

This *Corn Exchange* is in no Senſe a legal Market, and, as far as I underſtand the Laws in Force, all Perſons who tranſact Buſineſs there, ſeem liable to ſevere Proſecutions, as a Monopoly without Patent, and where none can ſell but ſuch as are Monopoliſts, in Combination againſt the Public, by Sale of the ſame Commodity ſeveral Times the ſame Day, and by diſperſed Agents raiſing the Price every where, ſo far as it ſuits their Intereſt here, and ſets a pernicious Example for all other Markets to imitate.

If the Remedy was difficult, it were in vain to complain, but if ſhewn to be eaſy, natural and juſt, I hope it will merit due Conſideration, as it is only eſtabliſhing other Markets and returning to the ancient Method. The having the Markets on the Keys where the laden Veſſels lie, open only at fixt and determinate Hours, and no Sale of Cargoes or Part of Cargoes

goes, more than once, and every Purchaſe delivered within ſix Days, at the Place by the firſt Contract ſpecially appointed, without the minuteſt Deviation.

The Difference between this, and the preſent Practice, will appear obvious enough from the following Remarks.

By the preſent Method, the Embarkation from the nearer Ports is in Hoys, or ſuch like ſmall Veſſels, and the Factorage uſually veſted in the reſpective Maſters, there lie conveniently at the Keys, and by a very good Rule are only to remain laden three Days; this repreſents a legal Market, as nearly as ſuch Situation can poſſibly admit, and no regrating could be here more than in the Land Markets, if the firſt Purchaſer was obliged to unlade, nor any Samples taken away to regrate with at the Corn Exchange, as to what is done afterwards may be conſidered in another Light; as the Practice now is, the Maſters of Hoys deliver out their Samples at very improper Times, much earlier than the *Corn Exchange* begins, and Opportunity given thereby of ſelling the ſame Cargo ſeveral Times over before the unlading.

In reſpect to larger Cargoes, that come from more diſtant Ports, they uſually are conſigned to Factors who have Ware-houſes to receive them, and bring their Samples to the Corn Exchange to be play'd with from Hand to Hand, until the accumulated Sales fix the Market Price of the Day.

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If the Evil reſted here, it would only concern about a Million of People, as the Groſs of the Inhabitants have uſually more Caſh than in moſt other Parts; and as the moſt Opulent ſpend the greater Part of their Wealth in the Seat of Government and Trade, and conſequently Neceſſaries expected to be dearer, but its baleful Influence diffuſes itſelf all over the Kingdom, and like a malignant Peſt, ſcatters Deſtruction as it ſpreads, but is not like that Temporary or Incontinuent, but like pernicious Weeds, that having once taken Root, are not eaſily eradicated; may I continue this Simily, by ſaying, that it moſt reſembles our Taxes, which being laid for a particular or temporary Purpoſe, are continued at all Times, and for all Purpoſes; and therefore require the like Kind of Caution, that they be not laid at all, and as one is the Parliamentary, the other is the Jobbers Tax upon the Nation. This Practice in the Metropolis conſtitutes a Kind of immutable Price in all the Statute Markets, and has occaſioned the ſtarting up of Sample Markets in many Villages and obſcure Places, which foreſtall the other, and utterly confound the ancient Order and Regularity of Dealing.

Where no juſt Reaſon againſt it occurs, we with great Rectitude of Judgment comply with ancient Laws and Regulations, and here the ſtandard Rules are evidently in Favour of the old Conſtitution, but were it otherwiſe, the Laws ought to be our Guide, and ſtrictly attended

attended to until ſomething better preſents to the Conſideration of the Legiſlature; and as all Conſtitutions, like material Structures, vary their Countenance by interventionary Accidents and Occurrences, they ſeem alike to require due and timely Reparation, if bad in the Foundation, to be new built, or if declining on a good Baſis, to be recovered back into their firſt perfect State. Hence we reaſonably conclude, that an Eluſion of the Laws is criminal, and any Practice tending thereto meritoriouſly puniſhable, with this remarkable Difference in reſpect to Neceſſaries, as ſuch concern the main Body of the People, who neither have, nor can have, any Relief, but what ſprings from the Honour and Juſtice of their Conſtituents.

As this Practice now operates, no Conſumer, whether a Man of Fortune, or in Buſineſs, that keep many Servants, or Cattle, or both, can poſſibly furniſh themſelves at prime Coſt; tho' it is plainly the Intention of the Laws, that every one who chuſes it, ſhould have the Chance of the Market in their Favor, and not be obliged to take Goods at the ſixth or ſeventh Hand, the Price advancing on each, and ultimately on the Conſumer, and riſing again in the Hands of the Mealman, and on the Baker; which Conſideration, if well attended to, ſhould ſeemingly induce Men of Fortune to balance what they increaſe in their Expence, by what they gain in the Securing of their

Rents, more eſpecially thoſe who have their Eſtates out on long Leaſes; and thoſe who have not, may, at the ſame Time they calculate Profit and Loſs, reflect on the Conſequence of raiſing the Price of Proviſions on Millions of induſtrious Poor, who muſt one Way or other be fed at their Expence.

Nor is Horſe Corn a trivial Conſideration, as the Price on the Road, and the letting-out, or keeping in Town, muſt conſiderably increaſe; and the Rule in this, as in the Manufactures, and in Taxes, that once advanced ſeldom fall again; in which Light, it is plain, that Men of Fortune and in Power, and that will not concur in impeding this evil Courſe, are laying a Tax upon themſelves, that may be irrecoverably permanent, without any thing like an adequate Advantage to their Eſtates; and this I think they muſt ſee, when they reflect on what has conſtantly happened in ſimilar Caſes.

Common Senſe and Self-intereſt here unite in Favour of the Public, and of themſelves; and however it may ſeem a Paradox, it is demonſtrably true, that the Riſe of Rents on Lands previouſly well cultivated is the Deſtruction of Trade, ſuppoſing it be owing to the Riſe of Neceſſaries; and while the Owner receives more Money, his Revenue, in the like kind of Living, will be found leſs than before; that is to ſay, he will have leſs to ſpare out of ſuch Revenue, and Lands, as they riſe in their Rents,

Rents, will fall in their ſaleable Value, by means of the increaſing Load upon them.

The Purchaſe of Lands, by their annual Valuation, muſt depend on the Wealth or Poverty of the Body of People in Trade, as Neceſſaries grow dear the Price of Labour increaſes, conſequently either our Manufactures riſe, or thoſe who conduct them be poor; if they riſe in Price, they will leſſen in Sale, and gradually dwindle into Neglect; and as to the Purchaſe of Lands, the Conſequence is exactly the ſame, whether Men work for little or nothing, or whether they have little or nothing to do; and at laſt where can the Fatality fall but on the Landed Intereſt, and as that decreaſes in Value, the Burthen of ſupporting the Poor riſe in Proportion; and this, with an eſtabliſh'd Dearneſs of Neceſſaries, is the moſt probable means of bringing great Fortunes into a narrow Compaſs, and of reducing thoſe of but moderate Eſtates to Beggary, from Gentlemen well attended, to appear like many of the *Venetian* Nobility, to go to Market themſelves, and carry their little Proviſions Home in their Caps.

The Neglect of the Community in this Particular ſeems to be the true Way of evening all Diſtinctions, and is a much more certain Method of Levelling, than ever found Place in *Cromwell*'s Army! The Power of the Sword, had that Scheme ſucceeded, could not have had the ſame Proſpect of Continuance as in

this Caſe, where, to give it the tendereſt Turn, miſtaken Conceptions, reſulting from the Appearance of a ſmall temporary Intereſt, confound all Reaſoning, depreciate common Experience, deſtroy the very Idea of Forecaſt, and give us ſo odd a Notion of Government, as is much more decently hinted at than explain'd.

It ſeems very well to take Care of the Preſent, but Wiſdom dictates to regard the Future likewiſe, the former is only the Object of narrow, the latter of extended Minds, that reaſon, think, and ſee for themſelves and others, and unite in one common Band the natural Intereſt of Society; but here, as before obſerved, they are raiſing the Price of Labour at one Time, they cannot fall at another, and thus involves the Preſent and the Future in the like common Injury.

The *Jobbers*, to blind the Legiſlature, and give the Enquiry a wrong Turn, have thrown all the Blame on the *Diſtillers*, have intereſted themſelves deeply in the Outcry, and, by giving Power a falſe Scent, have puzzled the Chace.

It is only true, that Diſtillers are blameable in two Lights, in making Spirits too cheap, and in manufacturing good Corn when there is a real Scarcity. In the firſt Caſe, the Cheapneſs of Spirits is in ſome Meaſure balanced by the Deſtruction of Smuggling; in the latter they

they beg the Queſtion, becauſe Corn is not ſcarce.

As to the pernicious Quality of diſtilled Liquors, I ſhall only ſpeak ſo much as may give a fair Light into this Part of the Argument. I take it to be true, that *Britiſh* are full as wholeſome as *French* or *Dutch* Spirits, though not always ſo highly rectify'd for the Palate, and if not ſo pleaſing, not ſo liable to be abuſed by Exceſs. *Punch* is the favourite Liquor of the *Engliſh*, it encourages the *Portugal* Trade for Fruit, the *Weſt India* Trade for Sugar, and made of our own Spirits, ſaves much Money at Home, and if the making of Spirits takes off the bad Corn in Times of Plenty, is certainly a Benefit to the Farmer; ſo then the only Complaint againſt the Diſtillery ſeems to be, their uſing unmalted Corn, Wheat when it is dear, and the Abuſe of Spirits by Exceſs; the firſt reſpects the Revenue, the ſecond the Community, and the latter particular Perſons; ſo that only the ſecond is to the Point, and if that was really the Caſe, requires the Attention of the Legiſlature; but Experience has evinced, that the Outcry, on Account of the Diſtillery, is not as to the main Fact true, nor do we find that impeding the Manufacture has at all leſſened the Price of Corn, nor can we perceive what Horſe Corn has to do with this Argument, yet its true that has roſe on a Level with the other Species of Grain.

We

We muſt then recur to more certain Cauſes, and if the Diſtillery contributes Something, it is not the main Something we are enquiring after, it has been only a Blind to interrupt the Courſe of a juſt Enquiry, to impoſe on our Repreſentatives, by leading them into a uſeleſs Conſideration of unimportant Matter, to fence off a real and important Diſquiſition. This would have appeared more clearly, and perhaps more to the Intereſt of the Diſtillers, if, in Proſpect of a Bill in Parliament, they, inſtead of amaſſing Grain, had waved working for a Time, they would then either have had their Corn conſiderably cheaper, or have convinced the Legiſlature where this fatal Evil reſted; as it is, they have contributed too much towards the Diſtreſs of the People, to be totally inexcuſable, and will in the Event diſcover that they have been ſomething more than miſtaken, as it is an Act to prevent for the future their uſing only malted Corn, will be but plain Juſtice.

But the main Streſs lies ſtill on the Jobbers, Engroſſers, Regrators, and Retainers, the Government Money ſet them up, and has conſtituted ſuch a Fund in their Favour, that opening the Ports, and a rich Harveſt, will with Difficulty break through in one Seaſon, unleſs the ſame Power that unwarily created the Evil, ſhall think proper, by an expreſs Bill, to direct, as the *Scots* Magiſtrates have done on the Juſtice and Propriety of their own Laws, " That

" every

" every Farmer in the Kingdom ſhall bring
" ſo much of their Grain to Market, as is
" more than ſufficient to ſerve their reſpective
" Families until the Inning of the next en-
" ſuing Harveſt."

I would not be underſtood to mean that ſuch a Bill ſhould be continuent, becauſe the like Circumſtance of foreign Troops may not again happen, or if it ſhould, it is to be preſumed that previous Care will be taken, ſo diſcreetly to conduct Matters, as that Grain for the public Service may be purchaſed without diſtreſſing the People.

In order therefore to a future Prevention, it may perhaps be expedient to begin with regulating, or rather conſtituting of proper Markets in the Metropolis. The moſt natural Way ſeems to be, the making the Wharfs on the *Southwark* Side, and on the *London* Side above Bridge, equally uſeful as *Bear Key*, and either totally deſtroying, or making the *Corn Exchange* a regular legal Market.

There is no Difficulty in Hoys coming up to *Fleet Ditch*, or with Horſe Corn to *Weſtminſter* Bridge, where Gentlemen, Stablers, *&c.* may purchaſe at the firſt Hand, and none permitted to be purchas'd in large Quantities, until after a certain Number of Days aſſign'd. Then the Corn Chandlers to lay in their Retale Store, and then, if the Market be not clear'd, let the Engroſſers take the Reſidue.

As to the Quantities aſſign'd Conſumers, who would purchaſe at the firſt Hand for their proper Uſe, it is eaſily regulated, by an Entry in the Clerk of the Market's Book of their uſual Conſumption, and a Penalty given on Retailing, and in the like Method on the Corn Chandlers for Jobbing.

The Engroſſers who ſtore up Corn ſhould be under the Direction of the Magiſtrates, and oblig'd by them to bring their Corn to Market, when above a certain Price; in this Article the Factors ſhould be under the ſame Direction, and this Mode purſued in every Market throughout the Kingdom.

An ingenious Man would readily draw up ſuch Rules for the perfecting of this Deſign, as might make it very eaſy and practicable, and at any Time aſcertain the Quantity of Grain in Hand of every Specie throughout the Kingdom, and with not much Difficulty ſet the higheſt Price each Market-day, by an equal fair calculated Proportion, I mean the higheſt Price of the beſt kind of every Specie, and as to the reſt leave the Market to take its Courſe, ſo none requir'd a Price above the Limits preſcrib'd.

When a Regulation of this kind is adjuſted with Judgment and Certainty, the Price will not be arbitrarily in the Determination of the Perſon or Perſons aſſign'd, but reduced to a mathematical Truth, that every one concern'd may

may appeal to for Conviction. I ſhall illuſtrate my Meaning by a brief Example.

I ſhall firſt ſuppoſe, that the Farmer is oblig'd, every firſt Day of *November*, to return his Account of Stock to the prime Magiſtrate of the neareſt Market Town, and each prime Magiſtrate to return his Account to the Lord Mayor of *London*, to be enter'd in a general Regiſter.

Suppoſe then there is eight Million of People, and that ſix Buſhels of Wheat is ſufficient for each, until the firſt Day of *November* next enſuing.

It follows, that the whole Amount will be forty eight Millions of Buſhels. The Queſtion then is, only what ought to be the Value of each Buſhel when the whole Quantity is barely ſufficient, excluſive of Rye, Barley and Oats, which make a great Part of our Bread, and turns the bare Quantity of wheat into an ample Sufficiency.

I ſuppoſe then that five Shillings for the *Winchester* Buſhel is a fair Price, and if ſo agreed may be the ſtandard Medium, and the riſing of the Price proportion'd to the lowering of the Quantity; when Wheat is at the ſtandard Medium, no Ports ought to be opened for Importation, but as the Quantity riſes, and the Price leſſens, Exportation may be admitted to bring it up to the medium Standard, and when the Quantity is below that, Importation allowed.

This is the equal Law between the Labourer and the Farmer; and the ſame Rule that governs Wheat, which is the leading Grain, may be equally purſued in every other Specie.

A regulation of this kind would doubtleſs create ſome little Trouble to the Magiſtracy, and perhaps a trifling Expence, but I hope not adequate to the great End purſued. Nor is it hereby propos'd, that Wheat ſhould ever be under four, or above ſix Shillings, let the Plenty or Scarcity be ever ſo great, but the calculated Proportions always kept within thoſe Bounds, as the Farmer may export with a Bounty when at four, and the Ports be opened when at ſix.

However difficult this Scheme may appear, it may be executed with infinite Facility; and as to the intervening Regulations, the Penalties on falſe Returns, the Meaſure of Judgment of Corn in the Stack, and ſuch like, it would be idle in me to propoſe them, as it would to ſhew how the Calculations may be reduced to an abſolute Certainty, as the latter is to be done by a common Skill in Figures, and the former by very moderate Underſtandings. But I hope that the Subject is of ſuch Conſequence, as to merit a very ſerious Conſideration, as it is in Effect the like kind of Scheme, as to the Eſſence, which gave Birth to the adjuſting the Price of Bread, and only an Attempt to perfect, what the Wiſdom of our Anceſtors conceiv'd

ceiv'd to be juſt, and what their Succeſſors have found Reaſon to approve for many Centuries; and as the Adjuſtment of the Price of Bread is almoſt the only regulated Oeconomy in the whole Syſtem of our Laws, if I may be permitted to call that a Syſtem which is generally precarious and uncertain, it will probably be very much to the Honour of the Legiſlature to make one perfect Law, in a Matter whereon our Trade and Manufactures, and their own very Being as a Conſtitution eſſentially depends.

Upon this Propoſition a Loop-hole appears for the Jobbers to creep out at, as they may play the ſame Game in jobbing of Corn, in buying and ſelling for Time, as the Money Jobbers have formerly done in *Change Alley*; and the Interval between the *Auguſt* Harveſt and *November*, give ſome Opportunity of engroſſing; but it is not neceſſary here to draw a perfect Act, the Hints are ſufficient for the preſent Purpoſe, and if diſregarded, amply ſufficient for my Time and Labour.

The Diſtillers are yet unnotic'd in this Part of the Propoſition; it ſeems very plain they ſhould be excluded the Uſe of Wheat, under very ſevere Penalties, unleſs when the Price is the ſame as noted above for Exportation, and then only an aſſign'd Quantity in Proportion to their Conſumption, or uſe of refuſe and malted Barley, which the Exciſe Office

muſt know to a Certainty, and may preſcribe for them proportionably.

As to Horſe Corn, the ſame Rule will lead into the like Regulations, there is no more Difficulty in knowing the Number of Horſes than of human Beings, nor of finding the Quantity of Oats and Beans in Hand, than of Wheat, nor of adjuſting the Price than of either. It is Indolence only that deſpiſes Method and Oeconomy, and bad Views that prevents its operating to Effect. The Navy of *England* was in the like diſorderly State until a certain Period (that was otherwiſe not without Error) put an End to at once. Three Years perfected the Eſtabliſhment of our naval Power, that a looſe Reign had ſuffered to fall into almoſt irretrievable Ruin. But our Corn Trade, however hitherto diſregarded, or unattended to, may with Facility be retriev'd in one Seſſions of Parliament, and is of as much Importance to recover, and fix in a State of Order and Oeconomy, as was the Royal Navy at the Period pre-mentioned. I could wiſh that all our Affairs were capable of being reduced with the ſame Eaſe into the like Order, it would give a new Turn to public Credit, make us eaſy under our Taxes, and the happieſt People breathing.

As it is, it eſſentially concerns us, that the Poor have Bread, that our Manufactures may floriſh, and that our landed Men may underſtand the immenſe Benefits which reſult from laudable

laudable Induſtry to the Improvement of their Eſtates, and at the ſame time foreſee the fatal Effects of ſtarving Labour; and while that every poor Man is contributing his Mite to the Advantage of Society, they, whoſe Intereſt it more materially is, may not be eſteemed the only uſeleſs and indolent Part of the Creation.

There is one Point more which requires being very ſoberly reaſon'd upon, as it perhaps regards the preſent Subject as materially, and illuſtrates it as much as any Thing that has been previouſly ſaid, this is the *Manufactory* of STARCH, which if wiſely methodiſed, might probably become one of the fineſt Staple Commodities in the Kingdom, and give a very ſingular Turn to the whole Courſe of our Corn Trade, anſwer a like Purpoſe to the Farmer as Exportation of Groſs Corn, ſave much Money to the Revenue, and employ a great Number of Poor.

The Proportion of Starch to Flour is as 25 is to 42, and in Proportion to Meal as 25 is to 56, the Surplus is uſually apply'd to feeding of Hogs, and anſwers a better End in that Reſpect than the Refuſe of the Diſtillery, becauſe the Hogs fed on Starch Refuſe are firmer and better Meat, much reſembling the beſt fed Country Pork, therefore more proper for the Navy and trading Ships than the Diſtillery breed.

This

This Commodity, like many others, is at preſent laid under ſo heavy Burthen, that like a Tradeſman deeply in Debt, cannot poſſibly thrive and floriſh. It is not my Buſineſs here, to ſay any more on the unſkilful Manner of charging our Manufactures with high Duties, farther than as it neceſſarily concerns the preſent Subject, and without going ſo far it is impoſſible to make it clear and intelligent.

It is generally conceived, that the Bounty on Wheat is a great Advantage to the Nation, and this with an unlimited Conception, common to the preſent Mode of political Reaſoning, but ſeems to me to be partly true, and partly miſtaken, and the latter very evident, if it be fact, that a great Share of the Wheat exported abroad is made into Starch, and then run in upon us.

But this, however true, is not an Error in the Bounty, ſo much as in the Duty laid on the Starch manufactured here, which Experience and the common Senſe of Things informs us, that Duties ſo laid, always encourage Smuggling, and conſequently the depreſſing of that very Manufacture the Revenue is attempted to be improved by.

And hence ſprings one other plain Conſequence, that we iſſue out more Bounty, and uſe leſs Corn, than would be the Caſe, if Starch was properly encouraged, and which will appear more evident, as the ſubſequent

Facts

Facts give this Argument its proper Illuſtration.

Starch pays no Duty abroad, but here it pays two Pence the Pound, and as but 25 lb. of Starch is made from a Buſhel of Meal, it muſt over and above the Duty ſell at the like Price, except the Offal, as the Buſhel of Meal, and ſo much over as the manufacturing coſts, the Profit thereupon, and the Intereſt of the Duty amounts to.

Then ſuppoſe we could manufacture as cheap as our Neighbours, there is the Duty and Intereſt, or Profit upon that Duty Difference in Value between the Price here and Abroad, a ſufficient Encouragement for Smuggling, for making it privately, and for its Diſuſe, not only by Barbers, who in this Caſe do, and muſt run all Hazards, but in private Families, and in the Manufacturies of Indico, Dying, Calico Printing, whitening Linnen, Sadlery, Upholſtery, Paſteboard, Paper Box, Trunk making, Book-binding, Glove, Shoe and Breeches making, Laundring, *&c. &c. &c.* ſo that whether the Starch be run, or the Duty evaded, it amounts to much the ſame as to the Revenue, but is materially different as it reſpects the Farmer, as by Evaſion of the Duty Starch in private Families is not generally made of Wheat, but of a much better Product for that Purpoſe.

On the contrary, could Starch be had at nearly its natural Value, the Farmer would find

find an equal Expenditure of his Wheat, and the Government ſave more in the Bounty than they gain by the Duty, inaſmuch as it ſeems by all Calculations to agree, that the ſuper Income on a low Duty would produce more Revenue, and if that Duty would ſo produce at One-fourth of the preſent Impoſition, it is clear, that Three-fourths more would be manufactured than at preſent.

By the Bounty is meant nothing more than the Return of ſo much Caſh to the Community as the Value of the Grain amounts to; but if it ſhall appear, that the ſame Caſh or more is drawn back again by a Return of the like Grain in Starch, the Views of the Farmer, the landed Intereſt, the Revenue, and the Manufacture, are all equally injured.

It is certain this cannot be directly proved, becauſe ſuch Proof conſiſts only in Seizures, and Seizures are rarely a tenth Part of the Goods run; but it is certain, that if our Neighbours can ſell as good Starch at two, as can here be made at five Pence the Pound, the Inducement is too great to be neglected; and if this Return is from our own Wheat, the Bounty is given to a very bad Purpoſe, or the high Duty on Starch very ill concerted.

The Fact is, our Neighbours can, with all Hazards, run it in at two Pence, and that our Manufacturers cannot afford it in the beſt Times at leſs than double that Price is a known Truth, it follows at leaſt, that the Probability

lity of its being run in is true, as all who are acquainted with the Practice of our Neighbours muſt be ſenſible is more than Probability, which, with the Arts of Starch-makers, a different Way of making better Starch in private Families than from Wheat, the Neceſſity moſt Barbers are under of uſing Flour, and the natural Right private Families have of uſing what they pleaſe, and the ſaving by all Trades in the Diſuſe at the preſent Price, readily accounts for the pitiful Produce of a high Duty, and the unneceſſary Waſte of Wealth in Bounties.

The Computation of Starch that is, or would be uſed in *England* if the Duty was low, is	18,893,333 lb.
Of what only pays Duty at	1,560,000
The Difference is	17,333,333 lb.

Then as to make every hundred Weight of Starch requires four Buſhels of Wheat, 17,333,333 Pounds requires 619048 Buſhels, or 77381 Quarters, which at five Shillings the Quarter Bounty amounts to the Sum of 19,845 *l.* which is ſo much paid for Bounty on Wheat exported to be run back upon us manufactured into Starch; and ſo far as that Quantity and Sum extends, is ſo far from

being of any Service to the landed Intereſt, the Farmer, or the Community, that it is a Drain upon us of our Caſh, and conſumes as much of the Revenue, as is near double the preſent Income on the Starch Duty, which is the very Reverſe of raiſing the Revenue, encouraging our Manufactures, promoting the landed Intereſt, enriching the Farmer, or of making Bread cheaper.

A Sum-

A SUMMARY of the *Laws* in Force reſpecting the *Corn Trade*, *Aſſiſe of Bread*, and *Regulation* of *Markets*.

Of *Foreſtalling*, *Ingroſſing*, and *Regrating Licences*, &c.

1. ORDINANCE for *Bakers*, &c. *incerti temporis*, cap. 10.

NO Foreſtaller ſhall be ſuffered to dwell in any Town, who manifeſtly is an Oppreſſor of the Poor, a public Enemy of the Country, who meeting Grain, *&c.* coming to be ſold, doth make haſte to buy them before other, *thirſting after* WICKED *Gain, oppreſſing the Poor, and deceiving the Rich*; and by that Means going about to ſell the ſaid Things much dearer than he which bought them, they ſhall the firſt Time be amerced, and ſhall loſe the Thing ſo bought; the ſe-

cond Time have Judgment of the Pillory, the third impriſon'd and ranſom'd, and the fourth abjure the Town, as likewiſe they that give them Counſel, Help or Favour.

Stat. 25 *Ed.* 3. Foreſtallers of Wine or Victuals that come to the Towns of *England* by Land or Water, being attainted at the Suit of the King, ſhall forfeit as much as the foreſtalled Goods amount to, and not having wherewith to pay, ſhall ſuffer two Years Impriſonment and more at the King's Will. And if attainted at the Suit of the Party, the Party ſhall have one half of ſuch Forfeit or the Price, and the King the other half.

Stat. of the Staple 27 *Ed.* 3. Merchants that bring Wares may ſafely ſell them, and no Perſon ſhall go by Land or by Water to foreſtall them, or give Earneſt before they come to the Port, nor enter into the Ships for ſuch Cauſe till the Merchandize be ſet to Land, on Forfeiture of Lands and Goods.

N. B. The Penalty of Death is repealed by 38 *Edw.* 3.

Stat. 5 & 6 *Edw.* 6. Whoſoever ſhall buy any Merchandize or Victual, coming toward any Fair or Market to be ſold; or make any Bargain for the ſame, or make any Motion for enhancing the Price, or move any Perſon coming to the Market, to forbear bringing the

the Things to be ſold, ſhall be judged a Foreſtaller.

Sect. 2. Whoſoever ſhall regrate, or get into his Hands, in any Fair or Market, any Corn, *&c.* brought into the Market to be ſold, and ſell the ſame again in any Fair or Market within four Miles, ſhall be reputed a Regrater.

Sect. 3. Whatſoever Perſon ſhall engroſs, or get into his Hands by buying, or promiſe taking, other than by Leaſe of Land, or Tythe, any Corn growing, or other Corn, with Intent to ſell the ſame again, ſhall be reputed an unlawful Ingroſſer.

The firſt Offence, in either of the above Caſes, is Forfeiture of the Goods, and two Months Impriſonment.

The ſecond Offence, ſix Months Impriſonment, and double the Value of the Goods.

The third Offence, the Pillory, Loſs of all his Goods, and Impriſonment at the King's Pleaſure.

Sect. 8. If any Perſon having ſufficient Corn for his Houſe, and ſowing for his Grounds for one Year, ſhall buy Corn in any Fair or Market for change of Seed, and do not bring to the ſame Fair or Market the ſame Day, ſo much Corn as he ſhall buy, and ſell the ſame if he can, as the Price of Corn then goeth, ſuch

ſuch Perſon ſhall forfeit double the Value of the Corn.

Sect. 10. Juſtices of the Peace in their Quarter Seſſions, ſhall have Power to enquire, hear and determine all Offences contrary to this Act, and on Conviction to levy the Forfeitures as by the ſaid Act is directed; and if at the Party's Suit, *i. e.* if the Party ſues in his own Name, one Moiety to the King, the other to the Informer—but the Offender muſt be proſecuted within two Years after the Offence committed.

Made perpetual 13 *Eliz. cap.* 25.

Stat. 5 *Eliz. cap.* 12. No Buyer or Tranſporter of Corn ſhall be licenced, but in open Quarter Seſſions in the Shire where ſuch Perſon ſhall dwell, and have dwelled three Years next before the Teſte of his Licence; and none admitted but what are or have been married Men, Houſholders, not houſhold Servants, nor Retainers to any, and of the Age of thirty Years at leaſt, and ſuch Licences only good for one Year, under which Licence they are to give Security not to foreſtal, or engroſs, or do any Act contrary to the Statute 5 & 6 *Edw.* 6.

Stat. 13 *Eliz. cap.* 25. No Perſon ſhall be a Buyer, Badger, Kidder or Carrier of Corn, *&c.* in other manner than by the above *Stat.* 5 *Eliz.* nor ſhall be any other way licenſed than is appointed by the ſaid Statute.

Regula-

Regulations concerning Corn, Import Duties, and Export Bounties.

STAT. 15 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 7. when the Prices of Corn, *Wincheſter* Meaſure, do not exceed the Rates following, it ſhall be lawful for all Perſons to tranſport the ſaid Corn to any Parts beyond Sea as Merchandize, *viz.* the Quarter of Wheat 48 s. of Barley or Malt 28 s. of Buck-wheat 28 s. of Oats 13 s. 4 d. of Rye 32 s. of Peaſe or Beans 32 s.

When the Prices of the ſaid Corn do not exceed the Rates above-mentioned at the Place where they ſhall be imported, there ſhall be paid for Cuſtom of every Quarter of Wheat 5 s. 4 d. of Rye 4 s. of Barley or Malt 2 s. 8 d. of Buck-wheat 2 s. of Oats 1 s. 4 s. and for Peaſe and Beans 4 s.

When the Prices do not exceed the ſaid Rates, it ſhall be lawful for all Perſons (not foreſtalling, nor ſelling the ſame in the ſame Market within three Months after the buying) to buy in open Market, lay up and ſell again ſuch Corn aforeſaid, as ſhall have been bought at or under the Prices before expreſſed.

Stat. 22 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 13. It ſhall be lawful for every Perſon, Native or Foreigner, at any Time, to tranſport as Merchandize all ſorts of Corn,

Corn, altho' the Prices exceed the above Rates; and when the Prices of Corn at the Places where the ſame ſhall be imported exceed not the Rates following, there ſhall be paid for Cuſtom theſe Rates, *viz.*

For every Quarter of Wheat, when the ſame ſhall not exceed 53 s. 4 d.—16 s. when exceeding 53 s. 4 d. and not exceeding 4 l. there ſhall be paid 8 s.

For every Quarter of Rye, when the ſame doth not exceed 40 s.—16 s.

For every Quarter of Barley, Malt, or Buck-wheat, when the ſame doth not exceed 32 s. —16 s.

For every Quarter of Oats, when the ſame doth not exceed 16 s.—5 s. 4 d.

For every Quarter of Peaſe and Beans, when the ſame doth not exceed 40 s.—16 s.

Each *Quarter* to contain *eight Buſhels*, and each *Buſhel eight Gallons*.

When the Price of Corn ſhall exceed the Rates aforeſaid, there ſhall be paid the Duties payable before the making of this Act.

There ſhall be paid for the Cuſtom of every hundred Weight of *French* or Pearl Barley 5 s.

Continued by ſeveral ſubſequent Statutes, and by the *Stat.* 3 *Geo.* 1. made perpetual.

Stat.

Stat. 1 *Jac.* 2. The Juſtices of the Peace for the ſeveral Counties wherein foreign Corn may be imported, are required at their Quarter Seſſions after *Michaelmas* and *Eaſter* yearly, by the Oaths of two ſubſtantial Perſons of the Counties, being neither Merchants nor Factors for importing Corn, nor intereſted in the Corn imported, and each having a Freehold Eſtate of 20, or Leaſehold of 30 l. a Year, and by ſuch other Ways as to them ſhall ſeem fit, to determine the common Market Prices of middling *Engliſh* Corn, of the reſpective Sorts in the Act 22 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 13. pre-mentioned, and to certify the ſame with two ſuch Oaths made as aforeſaid in Writing annexed, to the chief Officer and Collector of the Cuſtoms reſiding in the Ports where Corn ſhall be imported, and the Cuſtom of foreign Corn imported ſhall be paid according to the Prices contain'd in ſuch Certificates.

N. B. *This Act extended to all the Counties, the Quantities return'd, and the Prices adjuſted by the Quantities, would have given this Act the Air of Perfection, and calculated as well for the Community, as it is now ſimply for the Revenue.*

The fifth Section of this Act continues, that, all which is to be done by the Juſtices of the Peace in their Quarter Seſſions, in the Counties, ſhall be done in the like manner in *London*, in *October* and *April* yearly, by the Mayor, Aldermen, and Juſtices, and the Perſons mak-

ing ſuch Oaths, ſhall not be *Corn Chandler*, *Mealman*, *Factor*, *Merchant*, or *Perſon intereſted* in ſuch Corn to be imported, but ſhall be ſubſtantial Houſe-keepers in *Middleſex* or *Surry* qualify'd as aforeſaid.

Continued as 22 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 13.

Stat. 1 *W.* & *M.* *cap.* 12. When Malt or Barley ſhall be at 24 s. Rye at 32 s. and Wheat at 48 s. the Quarter, or under, in any Part of the Kingdom; every Perſon who ſhall ſhip Grain for Exportation according with the Regulations by the ſaid Act preſcribed, ſhall receive from the Collectors for every Quarter of Barley or Malt 2 s. 6 d. for Rye 3 s. 6 d. and for Wheat ground or unground 5 s.

Stat. 2. *cap.* 24. The ſame for the Port of *Berwick*.

Stat. 11 & 12 *Will.* 3. The Subſidy, and all Duties payable upon Exportation of Wheat, *&c.* ſhall ceaſe.

Stat. 12 & 13 *idem.* If the Collector have not ſufficient Money in his Hands to pay the Bounty, he ſhall give the Perſon exporting a Certificate, which being affixt to the Corn Debenture, and produc'd to the Commiſſioners of the Cuſtoms, they ſhall cauſe the Money to be paid him in three Months, out of the Duties in the Port of *London* chargeable therewith.

Stat.

Stat. 5 *Ann. cap.* 29. By this Act the like Bounty is given on Oatmeal and Grain called Beer or Bigg, exported from *England*, *Wales* and *Berwick*, as by the Articles of Union is given for Oatmeal and Beer from *Scotland*; and every Perſon exporting Malt made of Wheat five Shillings for every Quarter ground or unground.

Stat. 2 *Geo.* 2. *cap.* 18. If the Juſtices ſhall neglect to determine the Price of Corn in Quarter Seſſions, as directed by the Statute 1 *Jac.* 2. *ſupra*, the Collector at the Port of Importation is impowered to receive the Duties on Corn imported, according to the loweſt Price of the ſame kind of Corn, mention'd in 22 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 13.

Sect. 4. The Officers of the Cuſtoms ſhall admeaſure all Corn whereon there is a Bounty payable on Exportation, by a Meaſure containing four *Wincheſter* Buſhels; and if ſhipp'd in Sacks, to make Choice of two out of any Number not exceeding twenty, and according to ſuch Computation the Allowance ſhall be paid to the Exporter.

Sect. 5. The like Regulations extended to Beer or Bigg, Oatmeal and Wheat Malt intended for Exportation; but this Act not to interfere with the Cuſtom of *London* of Admeaſurement by ſworn Meeters, by whoſe Certificate the Searchers, or other Officers of

the Cuſtoms, are to certify the Quantity of Corn ſhipp'd for Exportation, as hath been practiſed.

Stat. 5 *Geo.* 2. The Juſtices of the Peace in the ſeveral Counties of *England*, *Wales*, and in *Berwick*, wherein foreign Corn ſhall be imported, may in their Quarter Seſſions give in Charge to the Grand Jury, to make Preſentment of the Prices of middling *Engliſh* Corn, of the kinds mentioned in *Stat.* 22 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 13. which Preſentment ſhall be certified by the Juſtices to the chief Officer of the Cuſtoms in every Port where foreign Corn ſhall be imported, and the Duties paid according to the Prices mentioned in ſuch Certificates. This Act not to prejudice the Authority given by 1 *Jac.* 2. to the Lord Mayor, *&c.* of the City of *London*.

Sect. 5. No Warrant, Cocket, *&c.* ſhall be granted for carrying to Sea from any Port within *England*, *Wales* and *Berwick*, to any other Port of the ſame, any foreign Corn after Importation thereof; nor ſhall any Perſon tranſport foreign Corn, or mixed with *Engliſh*, under Penalty of forfeiting the ſame, and twenty Shillings for every Buſhel, and the Ship wherein ſuch Corn ſhall be laden, one Moiety to the King, and the other Moiety to them who ſhall ſue for the ſame, and the Maſter and Mariners concerned in the Offence be impriſon'd for three Months.

" The

" The following Act I am obliged to be
" ſomewhat more explicit in, as it eſſentially
" concerns the Poor and Ignorant, whom Ne-
" ceſſity often forces to commit Exceſſes, and
" who may not be at ſo little Expence truly
" appris'd of the Conſequences, and yet are
" to be in a particular manner regarded as the
" Baſis on which our Wealth and Opulence
" are conſtructed; as it is hard to make uſe-
" ful People miſerable by want of Oeconomy
" in the Conſtitution, and then puniſh them
" for being wretched, by a Law they perhaps
" never read, heard of, or underſtand; it be-
" ing little to ſay that all Men are bound to
" take Notice of the Laws, but it would be
" ſaying a great deal, to prove that its poſſi-
" ble in their preſent State of Multiplicity,
" and the Wretched are drove to the unhappy
" Alternative of either ſhewing that Neceſſity
" has no Law, or of ſtarving.

Stat. 11 *Geo.* 2. *cap.* 22. *Sect.* 1. If any Perſons ſhall wilfully and maliciouſly beat, wound, or uſe any other Violence to any Perſon, with Intent to deter or hinder him from buying Corn, or ſhall unlawfully ſtop or ſeize any Waggon, Cart, or other Carriage, or Horſe loaded with Wheat, Flour, Meal, Malt, or other Grain, in the Way to, or from any City, Market Town, or Sea Port, and wilfully and maliciouſly break, cut, ſeparate or deſtroy the ſame, or any Part thereof, or the Harneſs

Harneſs of the Horſes, or ſhall unlawfully take off, drive away, kill, or wound any of ſuch Horſes, or unlawfully beat or wound the Drivers, in order to ſtop the ſame, or ſhall ſcatter ſuch Wheat, Flour, Meal, Malt or other Grain, or ſhall take and carry away, ſpoil or damage the ſame, or any Part thereof, every ſuch Perſon being thereof convicted before any two Juſtices of the Peace, ſhall be ſent to the common Gaol, or Houſe of Correction, to be kept to hard Labour, for any Time not exceeding three Months, nor leſs than one Month; and ſhall by the Juſtices be ordered to be once publickly whipt by the Keeper of ſuch Gaol or Houſe of Correction on the firſt convenient Market-day, at the Market-place, between the Hours of eleven and two.

Sect. 2. If any Perſon ſo convicted ſhall commit any of the Offences aforeſaid a ſecond Time, or ſhall wilfully and maliciouſly pull, throw down, or otherwiſe deſtroy any Storehouſe or place where Corn ſhall be then kept in order to be exported, or ſhall unlawfully enter any ſuch Place, and carry away any Corn, Flour, Meal or Grain, or ſhall throw abroad or ſpoil the ſame, or ſhall unlawfully enter on board any Ship, Barge or Veſſel, and wilfully and maliciouſly take and carry away, caſt or throw out therefrom, or otherwiſe ſpoil or damage any Wheat, Flour, Meal, or other Grain therein intended for Exportation; every Perſon ſo offending, and being convicted thereof,

of, ſhall be adjudged guilty of Felony, and tranſported for ſeven years; and if ſuch Offender ſhall return before the Expiration of ſeven Years, he ſhall ſuffer Death without Benefit of Clergy.

Sect. 3. No Attainder for any Offence made Felony by this Act, ſhall work Corruption of Blood, Loſs of Dower, or Diſinheritance of Heirs.

Sect. 4. No Perſon puniſh'd by this Act ſhall ſuffer for the ſame Offence by any other Law.

Sect. 5. The Inhabitants of every Hundred in *England*, wherein any ſuch Offence ſhall be committed, ſhall make Satisfaction to all Perſons, their Executors and Adminiſtrators, for the Damages they ſhall have ſuſtained, by any Injury done to their Properties by any Offender againſt this Act, the Sum to be recovered not exceeding one hundred Pounds, ſuch Damages to be levied by the like Methods, as are preſcrib'd in Caſes of Actions for Robberies on the Highway by 27 *Eliz. cap.* 13. and 8 *Geo.* 2. *cap.* 16. excepts ſo much thereof as relates to giving Notice, or making freſh Suit and Hue and Cry, or any other Matter otherwiſe provided for by this Act.

Sect. 6. Provided that no Perſons be enabled to recover Damages by this Act, unleſs they, by themſelves, or Servants, within two Days after Damage done, ſhall give Notice of ſuch Offence

Offence to one of the Conſtables of the Hundred, or to the Conſtable, Borſholder, Headborough or Tithingman, of the Town, Hamlet, or Tithing in or near where ſuch Fact ſhall be committed, and ſhall, within ten Days after ſuch Notice, give in their Examinations upon Oath, or the Examination upon Oath of their Servants, preſent at the Time of the Fact committed, or having the Care of ſuch their Properties, to which ſuch Damage ſhall be done, before any Juſtice of the Peace where ſuch Fact ſhall be committed, whether they know the Perſon that committed ſuch Fact, or any of them; and if upon ſuch Examination it be confeſſed that they do know the Perſons, or any of them, they ſhall be bound by Recognizance to proſecute the Offenders.

Sect. 7. Where any Offence ſhall be committed againſt this Act, and any one of the Offenders ſhall be apprehended and convicted, within twelve Months after the Offence, no Hundred ſhall be ſubject or liable to make Satisfaction.

Sect. 8. No Perſon ſhall be enabled hereby to ſue, or bring any Action againſt any Hundred, until after the Expiration of one Year, nor unleſs the Parties ſuſtaining ſuch Damage ſhall commence their Action within two Years after the Offence.

N. B.

N. B. As the Parties injured are under this Act, more likely to ſue the Hundred for Damages than proſecute the Offenders, at additional Loſs by the Expence of Proſecution, it ſeems a Defect in the Law, that the Hundred have not Power to proſecute the Offenders for their own Indemnity, and to make the Parties injured Evidence of the Fact committed.

The Assise of Bread.

I. Ordinance for Bakers, &c. *incerti temporis*, cap. 1. The Aſſiſe of Bread ſhall be kept after the Sale of Wheat, to wit, the better, the worſe, and the worſt.

Cap. 2. A Baker, if his Bread be found a Farthing Weight lacking in 2s. 6d. ſhall be amerced, and if it paſs the ſame, he ſhall ſuffer Puniſhment of the Pillory, and every Baker ſhall have a Mark for his Bread.

Stat. 8 *Ann. Cap.* 18. *Sect.* 1. So much of the Statute, 51 *Hen.* 3. called *Aſſiſa panis & cerviſae*, which relates to the Aſſiſe of Bread, is repealed, and the Lord Mayor of *London*, and the Mayor, Bailiffs, Aldermen, or other chief Magiſtrates, of any other City or Borough, or two Juſtices of the Peace in ſuch Places where there ſhall not be any ſuch other Magiſtrates, ſhall, from Time to Time,

ſet the Aſſiſe and Weight of all Sorts of Bread to be ſold by the Baker, having reſpect to the Price, the Grain, Meal, or Flour, of which it ſhall be made, ſhall bear in the Markets near the Place, and making a reaſonable Allowance to the Baker for his Livelihood, the Aſſiſe to be ſet in *Averdupoiſe Weight*.

Sect. 2. No Perſon ſhall ſell, or expoſe to Sale, any Bread, other than the ſeveral Sorts of White, Wheaten and Houſhold, and ſuch other Sorts as ſhall be publicly allowed by the Lord Mayor, Magiſtrates or Juſtices of the Peace, all which Sorts of Bread ſhall be made according to the Goodneſs of the Grain, and the Aſſiſe and Weight of the white, wheaten and houſhold Bread, ſhall be ſet and aſcertained according to the Table.

N. B. I ſhall not here trouble the Reader with any more of this Table, than that he may, from the medium Prices, from four to eight Shillings a Buſhel of Wheat, eaſily calculate the Aſſiſe at any other Prices; noting, that white Loaves are one half, and the Wheaten three Quarters the Weight of houſhold Loaves.

The

The Penny Loaf. Eighteen-penny Loaf,
The Allowance for Baking included.

The Price of the Buſhel of Wheat.	White. Wheat. Houſh.						Wheaten. Houſhold.					
	Ounces	Drams	Ounces	Drams	Ounces	Drams	Pounds	Ounces	Drams	Pounds	Ounces	Drams
s.												
4	11	9	17	6	23	3	19	18	13	26	1	1
5	9	4	13	14	18	9	15	10	4	20	13	11
6	7	12	11	9	15	7	12		8	16		11
7	6	10	9	15	13	4	11	2	12	14	14	5
8	5	13	8	11	11	9	9	12	7	13		9

Then knowing the current Market Price of the Week, on a fair Medium, at *Bear Key*; as the Penny Loaf is known, ſo whatever Price Bread is ſold at, the Weight muſt be proportionate; as for Example, when a Wheaten Loaf is Eighteen-pence, and the Price of Grain eight Shillings the Buſhel, ſuch Loaf, according to the Aſſiſe Table, ſhould weigh nine Pounds, twelve Ounces, ſeven Drams.

The Houſhold, or ſecond Bread, thirteen Pounds, nine Drams.

And as I do not underſtand, that any Bread is made of the Flour, in the Statute called White, but the Penny and leſſer Loaves, ſo by the above Table may all the larger Bread be calculated.

The Denomination of Loaves is immaterial, if called Half-peck, Quartern, Half-quatern,

or what not, the Conſideration is only what is the Price, what the Weight, when Corn is 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8 Shillings the Buſhel, or ſixty-four Shillings the Quarter, and ſo back, reckoning eight Buſhels to the Quarter.—— Conſequently, if when Corn is at eight Shillings the Buſhel, or leſs, and the wheaten Half-peck Loaf weighing but eight Pounds eleven Ounces, is aſſiſed at Eighteen-pence, ſuch Aſſiſe is very unfavourable to the Conſumer; for if I calculate right, what is called the Half-peck Loaf in *London*, weighing eight Pounds eleven Ounces, the Aſſiſe at eight Shillings the Buſhel, or ſixty-four Shillings the Quarter of Wheat, the Price ought to be but Sixteen-pence $\frac{1}{4}$, it is Sixteen-pence $\frac{80}{179}$.

Suppoſe then, inſtead of following the Rule of the Aſſiſe Table, as to ſetting the Weight of Bread in Proportion to the Price of Corn, we purſue the City Rule of a ſtandard Weight of Bread, as to Peck, Half-peck, *&c.* and ſet the Value of the Bread by the Riſe or Fall of Corn. The Aſſiſe Table muſt ſtill be the Guide by which we are to judge if ſuch Aſſiſe be ſet fairly between the Baker and the Conſumer, which for Conciſeneſs Sake I ſhall do by only the Medium of the Half-peck Loaf, which ſhould weigh eight Pounds eleven Ounces; then throwing aſide the Fractions, and keeping within the Limits of the former Table in equal Numbers, the Price ſtand thus:

s.		d.	
4		8	
5		10	
at 6	*per* Buſhel,	12	the Half-peck Loaf.
7		14	
8		16	

And ſo on to lower or higher Prices of Wheat by the Buſhel, which is ſufficiently exact to ſhew within the Compaſs of the Fraction of a Penny what the *London* Aſſiſe ought to be; and when a Fraction reſults, no doubt the Baker ſhould have the Turn of the Scale.

From theſe Remarks it ſhould ſeem, as if the Aſſiſe of Bread was not now, nor has been rightly aſcertain'd in *London*, admitting that it is ſet by the higheſt Price of Grain, when Corn was at eight Shillings the Buſhel, the Aſſiſe of the Half-peck Loaf was one Shilling and Six-pence; now it is at four Shillings, the Aſſiſe is at eleven Pence and upwards, for I leave out the Fractions, becauſe the even Price ſeems not near the right Aſſiſe, as at four Shillings the Buſhel, I can't make it more than eight Pence the Half-peck, being eight Pounds eleven Ounces; I know that ſome Wheat has been ſold for Three-pence a Buſhel more, and the ſame Day for Six-pence a Buſhel leſs, and ſome ſtill much lower, nor can conceive, why abſolutely the higheſt Price any is ſold for ſhould rule the Aſſiſe, becauſe that may be meerly a Trick of the Bakers; the clandeſtine Price of a ſmall Quantity is an odd Rule to ſwear by,

and

and ſtill more extraordinary, to become the general Rule of Aſſiſe.

It is apparent, that on the 18th of *Auguſt*, 1757, that the Market Price current of both Wheats was from twenty to thirty-two Shillings the Quarter, ſo the higheſt Price by the Buſhel but four Shillings and Three-pence; the ſame Day the Aſſiſe came out by Authority at Eleven-pence Halfpenny the Half-peck Loaf, which is five Shillings and Nine-pence the Buſhel, or forty-ſix Shillings the Quarter.

The Aſſiſe indeed is publiſh'd by Authority, the other is the Price current publiſh'd in the public Papers, but it is not from them only I have my Account, as I imagine I have it equally authentic, as from that by Authority, and perhaps am leſs liable to be impos'd on, becauſe the Perſons who inform me are totally diſintereſted.

From whence I muſt beg Leave to infer, that any one or more Perſons ſwearing to the higheſt Price is not a fair Rule for the Community, becauſe, as before obſerv'd, it is liable to Fraud and Impoſition on the Magiſtrate, and ſeem evidently ſo in the preſent Caſe; for tho' I can't ſay that one Buſhel, or one Quarter, was not ſold at five Shillings and Nine-pence, or forty-ſix Shillings, yet I can, that the current Market Price was neither that Day, nor near that Time any thing like it.

If this reſults from the Price of Meal at *Queen Hyth*, it is equally incomprehenſible, either

either how the Government ſhould miſtake this Matter, *ſetting the Aſſiſe by unground Corn*, or how it can happen that Meal is dearer by the Buſhel than unground Corn, as by common Meaſure it muſt be nearly one-fifth defective in Weight, but if not, I am unappriſed of any Right the Magiſtrate has to deviate from the Statute Aſſiſe.

There are two Points more I wiſh equally inquired into —— The firſt is, whether the Bakers do, or are obliged to uſe Flour made only from the higheſt priced Wheat?

The laſt is, Whether they are obliged to bake their Bread thoroughly, and in that State to give full Weight? becauſe, as I find there is a general Defect in all theſe Particulars, and the Flour ſometimes mixt, it is but a fair Concluſion, that the higheſt Price of Wheat, and that perhaps by partial Purchaſe, can in no Senſe be deemed equal between the Baker and Conſumer.

The publiſhing of the Aſſiſe by Authority, *Auguſt* 18, 1757, has certainly all the Appearance of Rectitude, and fair Intention in the Magiſtracy, and ſuch a Publication monthly would be very commendable. But, nevertheleſs, either I am very much out in my Calculation and Reaſoning, or the Magiſtracy of *London* are impoſed on; or I muſt confeſs I am a Stranger to the Subject, therefore to do the ſame equal Juſtice to them I am claiming for the Community, I ſhall here take the Liberty

berty to publiſh the *authoriſed* LONDON ASSISE, 18 *Auguſt*, 1757, from whence, and from the STATUTE ASSISE TABLE, and informing themſelves of the true Market Price of Wheat (which I wiſh was likewiſe publiſhed daily by Authority) the Reader, who can calculate, may at any Time make himſelf Maſter of this Argument, of which, for the public Good, I wiſh every one was Maſter.

N. B. Tho' the *London* Aſſiſe came out the 18th, it was ſet the 16th, and then the Corn roſe again, I conceive to ſuit the Aſſiſe, as that is to a certain Degree always at the Command of the Jobbers.

LONDON, to Wit, *The Aſſize of Bread to be made of Wheat, ſet forth this 16th Day of* Auguſt, 1757, *by the* MAYOR *of the City of* London, *by the Order of the Court of Mayor and Aldermen of the ſaid City, to Commence and take Place on* Thurſday *next.*

IT is hereby ordered and appointed, that all Loaves of the reſpective Sorts of White, Wheaten and Houſhold Bread, which from and after *Wedneſday* next, until the further Order of the Lord-Mayor, or of the ſaid Court of Mayor and Aldermen, ſhall be made or baked for Sale, or ſold or expoſed to or for Sale, within the Juriſdiction of the ſaid Court of Mayor and Aldermen, ſhall reſpectively be of the Weight Avoirdupoiſe, and be made in their ſeveral and reſpective Degrees, according to the Goodneſs of the ſeveral Sorts of Wheat whereof the ſame ought to be made; and that only Bread of Wheat of the ſaid three ſeveral Sorts of White, Wheaten and Houſhold, ſhall after *Wedneſday* next be made or baked for Sale, or be ſold within the Juriſdiction aforeſaid; and that all the ſaid three ſeveral Sorts of Bread ſhall only be ſold at the Rate

Rate or Price herein after limited and aſcertained, for the ſame reſpectively, that is to ſay,

	lb.	oz.	dr.
The Penny Loaf of White Bread, or two Half-penny Loaves of White Bread are to weigh, if weighed before a Magiſtrate, within twenty-four Hours after baking or expoſing thereof to Sale,	0	8	1
The Penny Loaf of Wheaten Bread is, or two Half-penny Loaves of Wheaten Bread are to weigh	0	12	1
The Penny Loaf Houſhold is, or two Half-peny Loaves of Houſhold Bread are to weigh	1	0	2
The Two-penny Loaf Wheaten is to weigh	1	8	3
The Two-penny Loaf Houſhold is to weigh	2	0	4
The Three-penny Loaf Wheaten is to weigh	2	4	4
The Three-penny Loaf Houſhold is to weigh	3	0	6
The Peck Loaf Wheaten is to weigh	17	6	1
And is to be ſold for 1s. 11d.			
The Peck Loaf Houſhold is to weigh	17	6	1
And is to be ſold for 1s. 5d. $\frac{1}{4}$.			
The Half-peck Loaf Wheaten is to weigh	8	11	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
And is to be ſold for 11d. $\frac{1}{2}$.			
The Half-peck Loaf Houſhold is to weigh	8	11	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
And is to be ſold for 8d. $\frac{1}{2}$.			
The Quarter of a Peck Loaf Wheaten is to weigh (And is to be ſold for 5d. $\frac{3}{4}$.)	4	5	8 $\frac{1}{4}$
The Quarter of a Peck Loaf Houſhold is to weigh (And is to be ſold for 4d. $\frac{1}{4}$.)	4	5	8 $\frac{1}{4}$

Note, Sixteen Drams make an Ounce, and ſixteen Ounces a Pound.

☞ The better to diſtinguiſh and aſcertain the ſeveral Sorts of Bread one from the other, there is to be imprinted and marked on every Loaf of Bread which ſhall be ſold or expoſed to or for Sale, within the Juriſdiction aforeſaid, as White Bread a Roman W. and on every Loaf of Bread which ſhall be ſold or expoſed to Sale within the Juriſdiction aforeſaid, as Wheaten Bread, a large Roman W H. and on every Loaf of Bread which ſhall be ſold or expoſed to Sale within the Juriſdiction aforeſaid, as Houſhold Bread, a large Roman H. And the Penalty of every Omiſſion is Twenty Shillings.

Stat. 8 *Ann. cap.* 18. *Sect.* 3. Every Baker ſhall mark on every Loaf, the Sort, Price, and Weight of the Loaf, *or any other Mark the Lord Mayor or other the ſaid Magiſtrates ſhall appoint.*

Sect. 4. The Convictions ſhall be certified to the next Quarter Seſſions, to remain on Record, and ſeen without Fee.

Sect. 5. No Perſon ſhall be convicted unleſs the Proſecution is within three Days after the Offence done.

Sect. 6. The Party griev'd may appeal to the next Quarter Seſſions, where the Offence ſhall be finally determin'd, and the Seſſions may allow Coſts on either Side, and commit the Offender.

Sect. 7. If any Baker, or Seller of Bread, ſell or expoſe to Sale Bread mix'd with any other Grain than what ſhall be ſettled by the Aſſiſe, he ſhall forfeit twenty Shillings; and if any Magiſtrate ſhall be negligent in the Execution of the Act after Information made to him of the Offence, he ſhall forfeit twenty Shillings, to be recovered by Action of Debt, &c. in the Courts at *Weſtminſter*.

Sect. 8. The Lord Mayor, *&c.* may in the Day-time enter Bakers Houſes, and ſearch and weigh the Bread, and finding the ſame wanting in Weight or Goodneſs, not well baked or truly marked, or of any other Sort than what is allowed, they may cauſe the ſame to be diſtributed to the Poor of the Pariſh; the Baker or other Perſon not permitting the Search, or reſiſting, forfeits forty Shillings to the Informer, to be recovered in a ſummary Way.

Sect.

Sect. 9. If any Action be brought for what is done in executing the Act, the Defendant may plead the general Iſſue, and recover double Coſts.

Sect. 10. This Act ſhall not prejudice any Right of the City of *London*, or of any Leet, to ſet and puniſh the Breach of Aſſiſe of Bread, nor of the Clerks of the Market.

Sect. 11. No Perſon puniſhed by this Law, ſhall be proſecuted again for the ſame by any other Law.

Sect. 12. All Juſtices of the Peace, Conſtables, and other Officers, are to put in Execution the Act made 22 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 8. & 22 & 23 *Car.* 2. *cap.* 12. *for aſcertaining the Meaſure of Corn*; and the Judges and Juſtices are in their Charges to preſs the Execution of the ſaid Laws, and of this Law.

Sect. 13. This Act not to prejudice the Rights of the Univerſities to ſet the Aſſiſe or Weight of Bread.

Continued by 3 *Geo.* 2. *cap.* 29, &c.

Stat. 1 *Geo.* 1. If any Perſon making Bread for Sale, or expoſing it to Sale, deficient of Weight according to the above Aſſiſe, for every Ounce wanting ſhall forfeit 5 s. and for leſs Deficiency 2 s. 6 d. ſuch Bread being complain'd of and weigh'd before a Magiſtrate, or any Perſon by him appointed, within twenty-four Hours after the ſame has been baked, or

expoſed to Sale, within the Bills of Mortality, and within three Days in other Places, the Forfeiture to the Informer to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of Goods.

Every Baker may make and ſell Peck, Half-peck, Quartern, and Half-quartern Loaves, *in Proportion to the Aſſiſe Table.*

Every Time the Aſſiſe ſhall be altered the Prices of Grain and Flour, in the adjacent Markets, ſhall be given in upon Oath before the Lord Mayor, *&c.* by the Clerks of the Market, or ſuch Perſons as the Magiſtrates ſhall appoint.

The Aſſiſe of Bread for the City of *London* and Bills of Mortality (*Weſtminſter*, *Southwark*, and the Bills of Mortality in *Surry* excepted) ſhall be ſet by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of *London*, or by the Lord Mayor by Order of the ſaid Court.

Continued by 3 *Geo.* 2. *&c.*

Stat. 3 *Geo.* 2. *cap.* 29. If any Perſon making Bread for Sale, or expoſing Bread to Sale, ſhall ſell any Peck, Half-peck, or quartern Loaf, at a higher Price than ſhall be ſet by the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen of *London*, &c. or the Magiſtrates of any other City, *&c.* he ſhall forfeit ten Shillings to the Informer, to be levied by Diſtreſs and Sale of his Goods.

Before any Reduction is made in the Aſſiſe of Bread by the Lord Mayor of *London*, &c.

a Copy

a Copy of the Prices deliver'd in by the Meal Weighers of the ſaid City, ſhall be left at the common Hall of the Bakers Company twelve Hours before ſuch Reduction.

Of Weight and Meaſure.

Stat. 16 Car. 1. cap. 19. *There ſhall be one Weight, and one Meaſure throughout the Realm, according to the Standard in the Exchequer*, and every Meaſure of Corn ſhall be ſtriked without Heap; and whoever ſhall ſell by other Meaſure forfeits five Shillings to the Poor, to be levied by the Churchwardens and Overſeers by Diſtreſs and Sale of Goods; and in Default of Diſtreſs, the Magiſtrate may commit the Offender to Priſon until the Forfeiture be paid.

The Clerks of the Market of the King's Houſhold ſhall only execute their Office within the Verge. Head Officers of Corporations, Lords of Liberties and their Deputies, may execute within their Precincts.

If ſuch Officers ſhall ſeal any Weights or Meaſures not agreeable to the Standard, or refuſe to ſeal ſuch as are agreeable, paying the warranted Fees, they and their Deputies ſhall forfeit five Pounds, to be levied as aforeſaid to the Uſe of the Poor. He that is fined by this Act, not puniſhable by any other.

If they ſhall take any Fine or Fee than is allowed by Statute or ancient Cuſtom, for the ſigning

ſigning or examining of any Weights or Meaſures formerly mark'd or ſeal'd, or ſhall impoſe any Fine or Amerciament without legal Trial of the Offence, or otherwiſe miſdemean themſelves, they ſhall forfeit for the firſt Offence five Pounds, for the ſecond ten, and for every other Offence twenty Pounds, to be levied as aforeſaid for the Uſe of the Poor.

This Act is not to extend to the Meaſure of Rent-corn, nor to Water-meaſure in Ports.

If an Officer authorized to execute this Act ſhall be impleaded, and found not Guilty, he ſhall recover treble Coſts.

P. S. *I am ſorry to hear, that while this little Treatiſe is working through the Preſs, that Matter is riſing on Matter ſufficient for a long Supplement. But the Jobbers, Mealfactors, &c. are to take Notice, that the Parliament will ſoon meet prepared to put a full End to all their Male-practices.*

F I N I S.

26. 3. 14